RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 5th December, 1985/14 Agrahayana, IQOJ (Saka) The House met at eleven of the clock Mr. Chairman in the chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

import of radio equipment

•241. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are delaying the clearance of a proposal for import of additional radio equipment required for a TV channel between Trivandrum and Cocliin; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to expedite the clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No. Sir.

(b) A firm quotation from the foreign vendor for the required microwave equipment is still awaited. The necessary approvals from the Government will the processed as soon as these details become available.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We couldn't hear ____ *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Something '•ong with the microphones. Please <-peat.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: (a) No, Sir.

(b) A firm quotation from the foreign vendor for the required microwave equipment is still awaited. The necessary approvals from the Government will be processed as oon as these details become available .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I heard the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But it is not enough if you had the answers. Others also ____ *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the hon. Minister tell us about the target date by which this work will be commissioned ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL : The Commissioning is not to be done by the Department of Electronics. The Department of Electronics is responsible forgiving clearance for importing the equipment from outside" The Telecommunication Department will be doing it at the instance of the I & B Ministry.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Sir, the regional TV centres have almost become useless in the sense that they are not able to relay the local programmes to other centres in the States, and the I& B Ministry says that because of lack of microwave equipment they are not able to do it. Will the Minister tell us, what action he has taken to provide the microwave network in various States so that TV programmes from State capitals are relayed over other centres?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL : I have already explained that the Department of Electronics is not res ponsible for all these things. Now, if the regional programmes are good and they are made available to the I&B Ministry , probably they can be relayed on the national network. It is for the I&B Ministry, and the Telecommunication Department could look into all these matters . This Department's responsibility is limited to giving clearance for import of the electronic equipment; becauase the equipment is electronic it has to come to the Department of Electronics, for the rest of the dungs this Department has nothing to do.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : What I understood *from* the Ministry of I & B is that you are not providing the necessary cquipment for relaying ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: His point is that your Ministry is not giving the clearance. Is that a fact or not ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL : As far as the clearance part is concerned, no sooner do we get the application of the information we give the clearance. If some information is needed, we get the information and we give the clearance. We will see that the clearance part is not delayed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Foreign Technology for Video Cassette Recorders

*242. DR. H. P. SHARMA :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given freedom to entrepreneurs to select their own imported technology ;

(b) if *so,* what are the reasons therefor, what specific steps had been taken in this regard and witli what results; and

(c) What progress has been made in individual procurement *of* im ported video cassettee recorder te chnology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) Government of India announced Integrated Policy Measures of Electronics on 21st March, 1985. As per this, it was proposed that Department of Electronics or its designated agency will purchase technology for VCR/VCP including the technology for manufacture of Deck Mechanism.

Tenders were floated by Electro nics Trade & Technology Develop ment Corporation (ET&T) for transfer of technology to make VCR including tape deck machanism parts like upper and lower drum and magnetic heads ET & T has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 7-11-1985 with M/s Grunding of West Germany for establishing a joint venture in India to manufactures VCRs and to set up a technology development centre for consumer electronics with facility for research, training, pilot production and a base for export support.

In the meanwhile a Government-Industry Meet was arranged on 17-5-1985. During this meeting, several speakers expressed grave doubts on the successful outcome of the Government's policy on centralised purchase *of* technology.

In view of the above, Government have given freedom to enter-preneurs to select their own technology. However, Government *hi* decided to promote only such units which are prepared to commit sizeable investments for suitable vertical integration with an accelerated PMP and which have the requisite in-built capacity to keep pace wfc<* the changing technology. Government has issued a Press Note on October, 25, 1985. inviting applications for the manufactue of VCR VCP including Deck Mechanism on the above lines.

†The question wai actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. H. P. Sharma.